

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1272

Introduced by Assembly Member Hill

February 27, 2009

An act to amend Sections 1797.222 and 1798.169 of the Health and Safety Code, and to amend Sections 21661.5 and 21662.1 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to public health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1272, as introduced, Hill. Emergency medical services: trauma center: helicopter landing pad.

Existing law, the Emergency Medical Services System and Prehospital Emergency Medical Care Personnel Act, establishes the Emergency Medical Services Authority within the California Health and Human Services Agency to, among other things, provide statewide coordination of county emergency medical service programs, including, but not limited to, designated trauma centers, and to administer the Trauma Care Fund.

Existing law, the State Aeronautics Act, sets forth provisions regulating aeronautics in California under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation, including, but not limited to, the planning, siting, and approval, of airports, including, but not limited to, helicopter landing pads. The law provides counties with specified authority over the approval of helicopter landing pads.

This bill would provide that those provisions of law shall not be construed as authorizing a county to prohibit a trauma center from installing a helicopter landing pad at or near its facility for the purpose of receiving emergency trauma care patients, and would make conforming changes.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 1797.222 of the Health and Safety Code
2 is amended to read:

3 1797.222. (a) A county, upon the recommendation of its local
4 EMS agency, may adopt ordinances governing the transport of a
5 patient who is receiving care in the field from prehospital
6 emergency medical personnel, when the patient meets specific
7 criteria for trauma, burn, or pediatric centers adopted by the local
8 EMS agency.

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10 (b) *The* ordinances shall, to the extent possible, ensure that
11 individual patients receive appropriate medical care while
12 protecting the interests of the community at large by making
13 maximum use of available emergency medical care resources.
14 These ordinances shall be consistent with Sections 1797.106,
15 1798.100, and 1798.102, and shall not conflict with any state
16 regulations or any guidelines adopted by the Emergency Medical
17 Service Authority.

18 ~~This~~

19 (c) *This* section shall not be construed as prohibiting the
20 helicopter program of the Department of the California Highway
21 Patrol from a role in providing emergency medical services when
22 the best medically qualified person at the scene of an accident
23 determines it is in the best interests of any injured party.

24 (d) *This section shall not be construed as authorizing a county*
25 *to prohibit a trauma center from installing a helicopter landing*
26 *pad at or near its facility for the purpose of receiving emergency*
27 *trauma care patients.*

28 SEC. 2. Section 1798.169 of the Health and Safety Code is
29 amended to read:

30 1798.169. (a) Nothing in this article shall be construed as
31 restricting the use of a helicopter of the Department of the
32 California Highway Patrol from performing missions which the
33 department determines are in the best interests of the people of the
34 State of California.

1 ***(b) Nothing in this article shall be construed as authorizing a***
2 ***county to prohibit a trauma center from installing a helicopter***
3 ***landing pad at or near its facility for the purpose of receiving***
4 ***emergency trauma care patients.***

5 SEC. 3. Section 21661.5 of the Public Utilities Code is
6 amended to read:

7 21661.5. (a) No political subdivision, any of its officers or
8 employees, or any person may submit any application for the
9 construction of a new airport to any local, regional, state, or federal
10 agency unless the plan for construction is first approved by the
11 board of supervisors of the county, or the city council of the city,
12 in which the airport is to be located and unless the plan is submitted
13 to the appropriate commission exercising powers pursuant to
14 Article 3.5 (commencing with Section 21670) of Chapter 4 of Part
15 1 of Division 9, and acted upon by that commission in accordance
16 with the provisions of that article.

17 (b) A county board of supervisors or a city council may, pursuant
18 to Section 65100 of the Government Code, delegate its
19 responsibility under this section for the approval of a plan for
20 construction of new helicopter landing and takeoff areas, to the
21 county or city planning agency.

22 ***(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing a***
23 ***county to prohibit a trauma center from installing a helicopter***
24 ***landing pad at or near its facility for the purpose of receiving***
25 ***emergency trauma care patients.***

26 SEC. 4. Section 21662.1 of the Public Utilities Code is
27 amended to read:

28 21662.1. (a) At or as near as practical to the site of a medical
29 emergency and at a medical facility, an officer authorized by a
30 public safety agency may designate an area for the landing and
31 taking off of an emergency service helicopter, in accordance with
32 regulations established not later than January 1, 1989, pursuant to
33 Section 21243.

34 (b) "Public safety agency" means any city, county, state agency,
35 or special purpose district authorized to arrange for emergency
36 medical services.

37 ***(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing a***
38 ***county to prohibit a trauma center from installing a helicopter***

- 1 *landing pad at or near its facility for the purpose of receiving*
- 2 *emergency trauma care patients.*

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